

Martin Bird's Prayers for Holy Week

Monday

Reading – John Chapter 12 verses 1 to 11

“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair.”

Lord Jesus, our Saviour, as Mary loved you so much that she poured expensive perfume on your feet and wiped them with her hair, help us to remember just how much we love you in our lives. Help us to show your love to all around us in whatever way we can at this difficult time. May the world know you through our actions as your disciples, at this time.

Enable us to focus this week on your final week of life before you were crucified, and know the hope we can have in our lives because you died for us and were raised to new life to save us all.

Amen

Tuesday

Reading – John Chapter 12 verses 20 to 36

“Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.””

Lord Jesus, you tell your disciples that the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified – you knew your death for the world was not far away. Lord Jesus, we know the end of the story and that we will be able to celebrate your risen life. Help us to know, in this difficult period, as we know the end of this story – that this too will pass – and that when it does we will be able to celebrate. Help us to know your comforting presence in our lives, as we continue through this week moving on to your death on Friday, knowing that this is not the end of your story, but only the beginning.

Amen

Wednesday

Reading – John Chapter 13 verses 21 to 32

“After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I will tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.””

Lord Jesus, you were troubled in spirit, just as we are in this current crisis. You carried on, and continued your journey to the cross, knowing that was where you had to go. Lord, help us all to continue on our current journeys, knowing that you are both the journey and the destination. Help us to focus on you and to do what is right, so that we do all we can to protect both your planet and the people on it. Help us to know the hope we have in you and to spread that hope in whatever way we can. You were troubled but carried on to the cross and new life. Let us travel on and may your kingdom come bringing life to the world.

Amen

Maundy Thursday

Reading – John Chapter 13, verses 1 to 17 and verses 31b – 35

““Do you understand what I have done for you?” Jesus asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, so should you wash one another’s feet.””

Lord Jesus, we know that you came to serve and not be served. We give thanks that we can call you Teacher and Lord and know you in that personal way. Help us, however, never to forget the second part of this – that we need to wash one another’s feet too. Help us to do this during this time, through phone calls, emails, or prayer for those we love and care for. Help us to keep in contact with people where we can and so, symbolically, be washing the feet of others through this period of uncertainty. Lord Jesus, may your words inspire us all to do what is right and, in so doing, help us and others to know you more closely than ever at this time when the whole world needs to know your reassuring presence. May we be that presence to all that we can.

Amen

Good Friday

Reading – John Chapter 18 verse 1 to John Chapter 19 verse 42

“Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the scriptures would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

When he had received the drink, Jesus said,

“It is finished”

With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. When you died on that cross, the world thought it had put your light out for good. You died to save the world and your

Death is not the end, but the beginning. Thank you Lord Jesus.

Amen

Easter Eve

Reading – Matthew Chapter 27, verses 57 to 66

“As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.”

Lord Jesus, as we think of your body in the tomb, knowing what is to come, we know you will be raised by God and that your journey to save us will be complete. Help us to know that certainty in our lives at this time, when certainty seems so far away. Help us to know the sure knowledge of your saving presence in this world and help us to never cease to worship you and praise you. Help us to know afresh that our hope in this situation and always is in you alone.

Amen